Year	India's Imports Share (%)
1999	0.80
2000	0.77
2001	0.78
2002	0.84
2003	0.90

According to this data, India's imports increased from US$ 46.98 billion in 1999 to US$ 69.74 billion in 2003.

Utilization to export potential

†1752. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Mckinsey and Company's report stating that by improving taxation the export potential of the country worth 300 billion dollar can be utilized;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether those taxes have been identified by Government where improvement is needed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A CII-McKinsey Report entitled "Made in India: The next big manufacturing export story" observes that the global trend to manufacture and source products in low cost countries is likely together strength over the next 10 years, particularly in the skill-intensive industries where India has a significant competitive advantage. As a result, according to the Report, India could increase its manufacturing exports to US$ 300 billion by 2015. In order to do this Indian companies will need to significantly step up their performance and the Government will have to remove barriers to export-led growth and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

undertake certain incentives. These include reduction in indirect taxes and import duties, removing bottlenecks in ports and accelerating power reforms, encouraging the development of manufacturing clusters, accelerating labour reforms and facilitating skill development.

(b) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to promote India's exports through meaningful interventions. A comprehensive Foreign Trade Policy was announced by the Government on 31st August, 2004 aimed at boosting India's exports by unshackling controls, simplifying procedures, reducing transaction costs, identifying and nurturing special focus areas for export promotion, etc. One of the strategies for export promotion also includes adoption of the fundamental principle that duties and levies should not be exported. In addition to this the Government has also been rationalizing the duty structure as part of an ongoing exercise to improve India's competitiveness in the global market while at the same time protecting the interests of the domestic industry.

Modernization of leather industry

1753. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested for release of Rs. 400 crores funds for leather industry modernization; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Government of West Bengal has requested for funds under the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) towards modernization and technology upgradation of leather units, located in West Bengal. Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) has an outlay of Rs. 400 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The programme involves technology upgradation/modernization of individual units, infrastructure development, capacity building and productivity improvement in leather sector across the country. The scheme for technology up-gradation and modernization in the leather sector with an outlay of Rs. 290 crores is yet to be approved by the competent